

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

FOR

CONSTRUCT AN ADDITION TO MULTI-USE TRAIL SYSTEM

AGENCY: Department of the Air Force

PROPOSED ACTION: Construct an Addition to Multi-Use Trail System

Under this alternative, Grand Forks AFB proposes to construct an addition to the multi-use trail system. The trail would be about 10,200 feet long and a maximum of 10 feet wide. The wetland located south of the recreational vehicle storage lot would be restored to pre-existing conditions (as it was prior to disturbance in fall FY02). A bridge would be constructed to connect the trail.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED: Under the second alternative, Grand Forks AFB would construct an addition to the multi-use trail system in alternative location. This alternative would remove more trees and additional construction in ditches. Under alternative 3, no action alternative, would leave the area as. The wetland would not be restored to pre-existing conditions.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES:

Air Quality - Construction activities would result in a short-term minimal increase of criteria air pollutants, as fuel burned by internal combustion engine power construction and earth-moving equipment. Earth moving activities would generate fugitive dust. Best management practices (BMPs) to reduce fugitive emissions would be implemented.

Noise - The short-term operation of heavy equipment in the construction area would generate additional noise only during construction and would cease after completion.

Wastes, Hazardous Materials, and Stored Fuels - The increase in hazardous and solid wastes from construction related activities would be minimal and temporary. Construction debris would be disposed of in approved location, such as the Grand Forks Municipal Landfill.

Water Resources – If the excavated area fills with surface water, groundwater could be exposed to contaminants by infiltration. Surface water quality could degrade in the short-term due to possible erosion and possible contamination from spills. There would be minimal impacts to ground water, surface water, and water quality if BMPs were followed. The wetland located south of the RV parking lot would be restored to its original size and shape.

Biological Resources – BMPs would be implemented to ensure that impacts to biological resources are kept to a minimum. There would be a loss of vegetation due to the additional pavement. Construction would have insignificant impacts to wildlife and any wildlife disturbed would be able to find similar habitat in the local area.

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| 14. ABSTRACT This final EA has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, and assesses the potential environmental impacts of constructing an addition to the multi-use trail system at Grand Forks AFB, located in Grand Forks County, North Dakota. Resource areas analyzed in the EA include Air Quality; Noise, Wastes, Hazardous Materials, and Stored Fuels; Water Resources; Biological Resources; Socioeconomic Resources; Cultural Resources; Land Use; Transportation Systems; Airspace/Airfield Operations; Safety and Occupation Health Environmental Management; and Environmental Justice. In addition to the Proposed Action, the Alternate Location Alternative and the No Action Alternative were analyzed in the EA. The EA also addresses the potential cumulative effects of the associated construction activities along with other concurrent actions at Grand Forks AFB and the surrounding area. | | | | |
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Socioeconomic Resources - Secondary retail purchases would make an additional contribution to the local communities.

Cultural Resources - The proposed action has little potential to impact cultural resources. In the event that any artifacts were discovered, the contractor would halt construction and immediately notify Grand Forks AFB civil engineers who would notify the State Historic Preservation Office.

Land Use - The proposed construction would not have an impact on land use.

Transportation Systems - There would be a minimal short-term increase to traffic flows from the contractor traveling to the base and/or construction site.

Airspace/Airfield Operations - The proposed action would not impact aircraft safety or airspace compatibility.

Safety and Occupational Health - The proposed action would provide a safer recreation opportunity on Grand Forks AFB instead of utilizing base streets.

Environmental Management – The proposed action would not impact IRP Sites. BMPs would be implemented to prevent erosion. No pesticides would be used as part of the project.

Environmental Justice - There are no minority or low-income populations in the area of the proposed action or alternatives, and there would be no disproportionately high or adverse impact on such populations.

No adverse environmental impact to any of the areas identified by the AF Form 813 is expected by the proposed action, Construct an Addition to Multi-Use Trail System.

CONCLUSION:

Based on the Environmental Assessment performed for Construct an Addition to Multi-Use Trail System, no significant environmental impact is anticipated from the proposed action. Based upon this finding, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required for this action. This document and the supporting AF Form 813 fulfill the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA, and Air Force Instruction 32-7061, which implements the CEQ regulations.



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Date: 15 Jul 03

Final

Environmental Assessment

CONSTRUCT MULTI-USE TRAIL SYSTEM

At

Grand Forks AFB, North Dakota

25 Jun 03

Cover Sheet

Agency: US Air Force

Action: The action proposes to construct an addition to the multi-use trail system at Grand Forks Air Force Base (AFB), North Dakota.

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Designation: Final Environmental Assessment (EA)

Abstract: This final EA has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, and assesses the potential environmental impacts of constructing an addition to the multi-use trail system at Grand Forks AFB, located in Grand Forks County, North Dakota. Resource areas analyzed in the EA include Air Quality; Noise, Wastes, Hazardous Materials, and Stored Fuels; Water Resources; Biological Resources; Socioeconomic Resources; Cultural Resources; Land Use; Transportation Systems; Airspace/Airfield Operations; Safety and Occupation Health; Environmental Management; and Environmental Justice.

In addition to the Proposed Action, the Alternate Location Alternative and the No Action Alternative were analyzed in the EA. The EA also addresses the potential cumulative effects of the associated construction activities along with other concurrent actions at Grand Forks AFB and the surrounding area.

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ACRONYMS, ABBREVIATIONS, AND TERMS

| | |
|------------------|---|
| ACM | Asbestos Containing Material |
| AF | Air Force |
| AFB | Air Force Base |
| AFI | Air Force Instruction |
| AICUZ | Air Installation Compatible Use Zone |
| AMC | Air Mobility Command |
| APZs | Accident Potential Zones |
| ARPA | Archeological Resource Protection Act |
| ARW | Air Fueling Wing |
| Ave | Avenue |
| | |
| BASH | Bird Aircraft Strike Hazard |
| Blvd | Boulevard |
| | |
| CAA | Clean Air Act |
| CWA | Clean Water Act |
| CEQ | Council on Environmental Quality |
| CERCLA | Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act |
| CFR | Code of Federal Regulations |
| CO | Carbon Monoxide |
| | |
| dBa | Decibel |
| DNL | Day-Night Average A-Weighted Sound Level |
| | |
| EA | Environmental Assessment |
| EIAP | Environmental Impact Analysis Process |
| EIS | Environmental Impact Statement |
| EO | Executive Order |
| EPCRA | Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act |
| ESA | Endangered Species Act |
| | |
| F | Fahrenheit |
| FONSI | Finding of No Significant Impact |
| Ft | feet |
| | |
| HAP | Hazardous Air Pollutants |
| H ₂ S | Hydrogen Sulfide |
| | |
| IRP | Installation Restoration Program |
| | |
| LT | Long-Term |

| | |
|------------------|--|
| mph | Miles Per Hour |
| MSL | Mean Sea Level |
| NAAQS | National Ambient Air Quality Standards |
| NAGPRA | Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act |
| ND | North Dakota |
| NDAAQS | North Dakota National Ambient Air Quality Standards |
| NDHH | North Dakota Department of Health |
| NEPA | National Environmental Policy Act |
| NESHAP | National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants |
| NHPA | National Historic Preservation Act |
| NO ₂ | Nitrogen Dioxide |
| NPDES | National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System |
| NPL | National Priorities List |
| NRHP | National Register of Historic Places |
| NWR | National Wildlife Refuge |
| O ₃ | Ozone |
| OSHA | Occupational Safety and Health Act |
| Pb | Lead |
| PM ₁₀ | Particulate Matter 10 Microns In Diameter |
| PM ₂₅ | Particulate Matter 25 Microns In Diameter |
| PSD | Prevention of Significant Deterioration |
| RACM | Regulated Asbestos Containing Materials |
| RCRA | Resource Conservation and Recovery Act |
| SAGE | Strategic Air Ground Equipment |
| SARA | Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act |
| SO ₂ | Sulfur Dioxide |
| St | Street |
| ST | Short-Term |
| TPY | Tons Per Year |
| TSCA | Toxic Substance Control Act |
| TSI | Thermal System Insulation |
| TSP | Total Suspended Particulates |
| USAF | United States Air Force |
| USEPA | United States Environmental Protection Agency |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The United States Air Force proposes to construct an addition to the multi-use trail system at Grand Forks Air Force Base (AFB), North Dakota.

Purpose and Need: There are few recreation activities available to residents of Grand Forks AFB. All age groups would use the trail for walking, running, bike riding, roller-blading, cross-country skiing, and horseback riding would utilize the path.

Proposed Action: Under this alternative, Grand Forks AFB proposes to construct an addition to the multi-use trail system. The trail would be about 10,200 feet long and a maximum of 10 feet wide. Twelve inches of topsoil may be removed during construction. Materials would include fabric, gravel, clay (as necessary) and asphalt. The wetland located south of the recreational vehicle storage lot would be restored to pre-existing conditions (as it was prior to disturbance in fall FY02). Grade would be restored and bridge placed over the wetland to connect the two sides of the multi-purpose path. No fill would be placed in the wetland other to restore pre-existing conditions.

Alternate Location Alternative: Grand Forks AFB would construct an addition to the multi-use trail system in alternative location. This alternative would remove more trees and additional construction in ditches.

No Action Alternative: Alternative 3, no action alternative, would leave the area as is and not perform any additional work on the multi-use trail system. The wetland would not be restored to pre-existing conditions.

Impacts by Resource Area

Air Quality - Construction activities would result in a short-term minimal increase of criteria air pollutants, as fuel (gasoline and diesel) that is burned by internal combustion engine power construction and earth-moving equipment. Earth moving activities would generate fugitive dust (PM₁₀). Best management practices to reduce fugitive emissions would be implemented to the maximum extent possible to reduce the amount of these emissions.

Noise - The short-term operation of heavy equipment in the construction area would generate additional noise only during construction and would cease after completion.

Wastes, Hazardous Materials, and Stored Fuels - The increase in hazardous and solid wastes from construction related activities would be minimal and temporary. Construction debris would be disposed of in approved location, such as the Grand Forks Municipal Landfill, which is located within 12 miles of the construction site.

Water Resources – If the excavated area fills with surface water, which is contaminated by materials used during construction, groundwater could be exposed to contaminants by infiltration. Surface water quality could degrade in the short-term, during actual construction,

due to possible erosion contributing to turbidity of runoff and due to possible contamination from spills, leaks from construction equipment. Provided best management practices are followed, there would be minimal impacts to ground water, surface water, and water quality. The wetland located south of the RV parking lot would be restored to its original size and shape.

Biological Resources – Best management practices and control measures, including silt fences and covering of stockpiles, would be implemented to ensure that impacts to biological resources be kept to a minimum. There would be a loss of vegetation from the paving the multi-use trail. Construction would have insignificant impacts to wildlife. Due to the abundance and mobility of these species and the profusion of natural habitats in the general vicinity, any wildlife disturbed would be able to find similar habitat in the local area.

Socioeconomic Resources - Secondary retail purchases would make an additional contribution to the local communities. The implementation of the proposed action, therefore, would provide a short-term, minimal beneficial impact to local retailers during the construction phase of the project.

Cultural Resources - The proposed action has little potential to impact cultural resources. In the unlikely event any such artifacts were discovered during the construction activities, the contractor would be instructed to halt construction and immediately notify Grand Forks AFB civil engineers who would notify the State Historic Preservation Officer.

Land Use - The proposed construction would not have an impact on land use.

Transportation Systems - There would be a minimal increase to traffic flows from the contractor traveling to the base. Impacts to the on-base transportation system would be short-term and minimal due to usage by the contractor and on base personnel working at the construction site.

Airspace/Airfield Operations - The proposed action would have no impact on aircraft safety or airspace compatibility.

Safety and Occupational Health - The proposed action would provide a safer recreation opportunity on Grand Forks AFB. Base residents would be able to utilize the trail instead of base streets.

Environmental Management – The proposed action would have no impact on an IRP Sites. Best management practices would be implemented to prevent erosion. The hazard of wind erosion is moderate and considerable erosion could occur on stockpiled soils. No pesticides would be used as part of this project.

Environmental Justice - EO 12898 requires federal agencies to identify and address, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of their programs, policies, and activities on minority and low-income populations. There are no minority or low-income populations in the area of the proposed action or alternatives, and, thus, there would be no disproportionately high or adverse impact on such populations.

1.0 PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR PROPOSED ACTION

This Environmental Assessment (EA) examines the potential for impacts to the environment resulting from construction of an addition to the multi-use trail system on Grand Forks Air Force Base (AFB). As required by the *National Environmental Policy Act* (NEPA) of 1969, federal agencies must consider environmental consequences in their decision making process. The EA provides analysis of the potential environmental impacts from both the proposed action and its alternatives.

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Located in northeastern North Dakota (ND), Grand Forks AFB is the first core refueling wing in Air Mobility Command (AMC) and home to 48 KC-135R Stratotanker aircraft. The host organization at Grand Forks AFB is the 319th Air Refueling Wing (ARW). Its mission is to guarantee global reach, by extending range in the air, supplying people and cargo where and when they are needed and provides air refueling and airlift capability support to Air Force (AF) operations anywhere in the world, at any time. Organizational structure of the 319th ARW consists primarily of an operations group, maintenance group, mission support group, and medical group.

The location of the proposed action (and the alternative actions) would be at Grand Forks AFB, ND. Grand Forks AFB covers approximately 5,420 acres of government-owned land and is located in northeastern ND, about 14 miles west of Grand Forks, along United States (US) Highway 2. Grand Forks (population 49,321) is the third largest city in ND. Appendix A includes a Location Map. The city, and surrounding area, is a regional center for agriculture, education, and government. It is located approximately 160 miles south of Winnipeg, Manitoba, and 315 miles northwest of Minneapolis, Minnesota. The total base population, as of May 2003, is approximately 6,934. Of that, 2,849 are military, 3,747 are military dependents, and 338 civilians working on base (Grand Forks AFB, 2003).

The multi-use trail system is currently located within the housing and industrial areas of Grand Forks AFB. The addition to the trail would run west along Malmstrom Avenue (Ave), south along Eielson Street (St), curbing to the east of Outdoor Recreations, and dividing to connect to existing tails by 7th Ave and Tuskegee Airmen Boulevard (Blvd).

1.2 NEED FOR THE ACTION

Grand Forks is located fifteen miles from the City of Grand Forks. There are few recreation activities available to the base populace. All age groups would utilize the trail for walking, running, bike riding, roller-blading, cross-country skiing, and horseback riding would utilize the path. The path would minimize the safety concerns of these activities on base streets.

1.3 OBJECTIVES FOR THE ACTION

The objective of the proposed action is to provide recreation opportunities to the base populace and to provide a safe environment for those activities.

1.4 SCOPE OF EA

This EA identifies, describes, and evaluates the potential environmental impacts associated with construction of an addition to the multi-use trail system. This analysis covers only those items listed above. It does not include any previous construction of facilities, parking lots, associated water drainage structures, or other non-related construction activities.

The following must be considered under the NEPA, Section 102(E).

- Air Quality
- Noise
- Wastes, Hazardous Materials, and Stored Fuels
- Water Resources
- Biological Resources
- Socioeconomic Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Land Use
- Transportation Systems
- Airspace/Airfield Operations
- Safety and Occupation Health
- Environmental Management
- Environmental Justice

1.5 DECISION(S) THAT MUST BE MADE

This EA evaluates the environmental consequences from the construction of an addition to the multi-use trail system on Grand Forks AFB. NEPA requires that environmental impacts be considered prior to final decision on a proposed project. The Environmental Management Flight Chief will determine if a Finding of Significant Impact can be signed or if an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) must be prepared. Preparation of an environmental analysis must be accomplished prior to a final decision regarding the proposed project and must be available to inform decision makers of potential environmental impacts of selecting the proposed action or either of the alternatives.

1.6 APPLICABLE REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS AND REQUIRED COORDINATION

These regulations require federal agencies to analyze potential environmental impacts of proposed actions and alternatives and to use these analyses in making decisions on a proposed action. All cumulative effects and irretrievable commitment of resources must also be

assessed during this process. The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations declares that an EA is required to accomplish the following objectives:

- Briefly provide sufficient evidence and analysis for determining whether to prepare an EIS or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).
- Aid in an agency's compliance with NEPA when an EIS is not necessary, and facilitate preparation of an EIS when necessary.

Air Force Instruction (AFI) 32-7061 as promulgated in 32 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 989, specifies the procedural requirements for the implementation of NEPA and the preparation of an EA. Other environmental regulatory requirements relevant to the Proposed Action and alternatives are also in this EA. Regulatory requirements including, but not restricted to the following programs will be assessed:

- AF Environmental Impact Analysis Process (EIAP) (32 CFR 989)
- AFI 32-7020, Environmental Restoration Program
- AFI 32-7040, Air Quality Compliance
- AFI 32-7041, Water Quality Compliance
- AFI 32-7042, Solid and Hazardous Waste Compliance
- AFI 32-7063, Air Installation Compatible Use Zone (AICUZ) Program
- AFI 32-7064, Integrated Natural Resource Management
- Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) [16 U.S.C. Sec 470a-11, *et seq.*, as amended]
- Clean Air Act (CAA) [42 U.S.C. Sec 7401, *et seq.*, as amended]
- Clean Water Act (CWA) [33 U.S.C. Sec 400, *et seq.*]
- CWA [33 U.S.C. Sec 1251, *et seq.*, as amended]
- Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) of 1980, as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) [42 U.S.C. Sec. 9601, *et seq.*]
- Defense Environmental Restoration Program [10 U.S.C. Sec. 2701, *et seq.*]
- Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) of 1986 [42 U.S.C. Sec. 11001, *et seq.*]
- Endangered Species Act (ESA) [16 U.S.C. Sec 1531-1543, *et seq.*]
- Executive Order (EO) 11514, Protection and Enhancement of Environmental Quality as Amended by EO 11991
- EO 11988, Floodplain Management
- EO 11990, Protection of Wetlands
- EO 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs
- EO 12898, Environmental Justice
- EO 12989 Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-income Populations
- EO 13045, Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks
- Hazardous Materials Transportation Act of 1975 [49 U.S.C. Sec 1761, *et seq.*]

- NEPA of 1969 [42 U.S.C. Sec 4321, *et seq.*]
- National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 [16 U.S.C. Sec 470, *et seq.*, as amended]
- The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of 1990 [Public Law 101-601, 25 U.S.C. Sec. 3001-3013, *et seq.*]
- Noise Control Act of 1972 [42 U.S.C. Sec. 4901, *et seq.*, Public Law 92-574]
- ND Air Pollution Control Act (Title 23) and Regulations
- ND Air Quality Standards (Title 33)
- ND Hazardous Air Pollutants Emission Standards (Title 33)
- Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) of 1970 [29 U.S.C. Sec. 651, *et seq.*]
- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) of 1976 [42 U.S.C. Sec. 6901, *et seq.*]
- Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) of 1976 [15 U.S.C. Sec. 2601, *et seq.*]

Grand Forks AFB has a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit to cover base-wide industrial activities. Construction of the proposed action or Alternative 2 would disturb approximately 2 acres.

Scoping for this EA included discussion of relevant issues with members of the environmental management and bioenvironmental flights. In accordance with AFI 32-7061, a copy is submitted to the ND Division of Community Services.

2.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

2.1 INTRODUCTION

Based on the descriptions of the relevant environmental resources presented in Section 3 and the predictions and analyses presented in Section 4, this section presents a comparative summary matrix of the alternatives (the heart of the analysis) providing the decision maker and the public with a clear basis for choice among the alternatives.

This section has five parts:

- Selection Criteria for Alternatives
- Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Study
- Detailed Descriptions of the Three Alternatives Considered
- Comparison of Environmental Effects of the Proposed Action and Alternatives
- Identification of the Preferred Alternative

2.2 SELECTION CRITERIA FOR ALTERNATIVES

Selection criteria used to evaluate the Proposed and Alternative Actions include the following:

- *Criteria 1: Providing a safe alternative for recreational activities on Grand Forks AFB*
- *Criteria 2: Construction of the multi-use trail with the least environmental disturbance.*

2.3 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT ELIMINATED FROM DETAILED STUDY

No alternatives were eliminated from detailed study.

2.4 DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ALTERNATIVES

This section describes the activities that would occur under three alternatives: the proposed action and the two action alternatives. These three alternatives provide the decision maker with a reasonable range of alternatives from which to choose.

2.4.1 Alternative 1 (Proposed Action): Construct Multi-Use Trail System

Under this alternative, Grand Forks AFB proposes to construct a multi-use trail system running west along Malmstrom Ave, south along Eielson St, curving to the east of Outdoor Recreation, and dividing to connect to existing trails by 7th Ave and Tuskegee Airmen Blvd. Between 7th St and Tuskegee Airmen Blvd, the trail would skirt along the west side of the shelterbelt. Protruding tree branches would be trimmed as needed.

The trail would be about 10,200 feet long and a maximum of 10 feet wide. Twelve inches of topsoil may be removed during construction. Materials would include fabric, gravel, clay (as

necessary) and asphalt. Some curb cutting would occur at road crossings. Sand bags and silt fences would be used to protect the storm water drainage system from soil pollution.

A culvert with two 6-inch corrugated metal pipes may be installed at the corner of Malmstrom Ave and the dirt road to the trailer park. The culvert would be located on the west side of the dirt road where the trail crosses over from the east side, shortly before reaching Malmstrom Ave. About ten bushes would be removed at the corner of Eielson St and Malmstrom Ave to allow room for the trail to cut the corner while keeping its distance from the drainage ditch. The horse pasture fence would be placed a few feet east of where the utility poles are now located. As the trail crosses the ditch north of Redwood Dr, no culvert will be needed because drainage does not occur through that point. As the trail approaches 7th Ave from the north, minimal trees and shrubs in the shelter belt would be removed in order to allow the trail to pass through a 12 foot wide opening.

The wetland located south of the recreational vehicle storage lot would be restored to preexisting conditions (as it was prior to disturbance in fall fiscal year [FY02]). Grade would be restored and bridge placed over the wetland to connect the two sides of the multi-purpose trail. No fill would be placed in the wetland other to restore pre-existing conditions.

2.4.2 Alternative 2: Alternate Location

Alternative 2 would construct the addition to the multi-use trail system in alternative location but in the same vicinity as the proposed action. This alternative would not be as safe and would have more environmental impacts due to the removal of more trees and more construction in base ditches.

2.4.3 Alternative 3 (No Action Alternative): Status Quo

Alternative 3, no action alternative, would leave the area as is and not perform any additional work on the multi-use trail system. Wetland would not be restored to pre-existing conditions.

2.5 DESCRIPTION OF PAST, PRESENT, AND REASONABLY FORESEEABLE FUTURE ACTIONS RELEVANT TO CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Impacts from the Proposed Action would be concurrent with other actions occurring at Grand Forks AFB. Another project currently scheduled in the same time frame and vicinity as the proposed action is the repair of Military Housing Pavements including work along the ditch next to Redwood Dr. This project is addressed under separate NEPA documents.

2.6 SUMMARY COMPARISON OF THE EFFECTS OF ALL ALTERNATIVES

Potential impacts from implementing the Proposed Action, Alternative 2, and the No Action Alternative are discussed in detail in Chapter 4.

Table 2.6.1: Summary of Environmental Impacts

| | Proposed Action | Alternative 1 | No Action Alternative |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Legend: ST = short-term; LT = long-term | | | |
| Air Quality | Minor Adverse ST Impact | Minor Adverse ST Impact | None |
| Noise | Minor Adverse ST Impact | Minor Adverse ST Impact | None |
| Wastes, Hazardous Materials, and Stored Fuels | Minor Adverse ST Impact | Minor Adverse ST Impact | None |
| Water Resources | | | |
| Groundwater | Minor Adverse ST Impact | Minor Adverse ST Impact | None |
| Surface Water | Minor Adverse ST Impact | Minor Adverse ST Impact | None |
| Wastewater | None | None | None |
| Water Quality | Minor Adverse ST Impact | Minor Adverse ST Impact | None |
| Wetlands | Major Beneficial LT Impact | Major Adverse LT Impact | Major Adverse LT Impact |
| Biological Resources | | | |
| Vegetation | Major Beneficial LT Impact | Minor Adverse ST Impact | None |
| Wildlife | Minot Adverse ST Impact | Minot Adverse ST Impact | None |
| Threatened and Endangered Species | None | None | None |
| Socioeconomic Resources | Minor Beneficial ST Impact | Minor Beneficial ST Impact | None |
| Cultural Resources | None | None | None |
| Land Use | None | None | None |
| Transportation Systems | Minor Adverse ST Impact | Minor Adverse ST Impact | None |
| Airspace/Airfield Operations | | | |
| Aircraft Safety | None | None | None |
| Airspace Compatibility | None | None | None |
| Safety and Occupational Health | Minor Beneficial LT Impact | Minor Beneficial LT Impact | None |
| Environmental Management | | | |
| Installation Restoration Program | None | None | None |
| Geological Resources | Minor Adverse ST Impact | Minor Adverse ST Impact | None |
| Pesticide Management | None | None | None |
| Environmental Justice | None | None | None |

2.7 IDENTIFICATION OF PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The preferred action is Alternative 1 (Proposed Action): Construct Addition to Multi-Use Trail System.

3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

3.1 INTRODUCTION

This section succinctly describes the operational concerns and the environmental resources relevant to the decision that must be made concerning this proposed action. Environmental concerns and issues relevant to the decision to be made and the attributes of the potentially affected environment are studied in greater detail in this section.

This descriptive section, combined with the definitions of the three alternatives in Section 2, and their predicted effects in Section 4, establish the scientific baseline against which the decision-maker and the public can compare and evaluate the activities and effects of all three alternatives.

3.2 AIR QUALITY

Grand Forks AFB has a humid continental climate that is characterized by frequent and drastic weather changes. The summers are short and humid with frequent thunderstorms. Winters are long and severe with almost continuous snow cover. The spring and fall seasons are generally short transition periods. The average annual temperature is 40° Farenheit (F) and the monthly mean temperature varies from 6° F in January to 70° F in July. Mean annual precipitation is 19.5 inches. Rainfall is generally well distributed throughout the year, with summer being the wettest season and winter the driest. An average of 34 thunderstorm days per year is recorded, with some of these storms being severe and accompanied by hail and tornadoes. Mean annual snowfall recorded is 40 inches with the mean monthly snowfall ranging from 1.6 inches in October to 8.0 inches in March. Relative humidity averages 58 percent annually, with highest humidities being recorded in the early morning. The average humidity at dawn is 76 percent. Mean cloud cover is 48 percent in the summer and 56 percent in the winter (USAF, 2003).

Table 3.2-1: Climate Data for Grand Forks AFB, ND

| Month | Mean Temperature (°F) | | | Precipitation (Inches) | | |
|--------------|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | Daily | Maximum | Minimum | Monthly | Mean | Monthly |
| Month | Maximum | Minimum | Monthly | Mean | Maximum | Minimum |
| January | 15 | -1 | 6 | 0.7 | 2.4 | 0.1 |
| February | 21 | 5 | 13 | 0.5 | 3.2 | 0.0 |
| March | 34 | 18 | 26 | 1.0 | 2.9 | 0.0 |
| April | 53 | 32 | 41 | 1.5 | 4.0 | 0.0 |
| May | 69 | 47 | 56 | 2.5 | 7.8 | 0.5 |
| June | 77 | 56 | 66 | 3.0 | 8.1 | 0.8 |
| July | 81 | 61 | 70 | 2.7 | 8.1 | 0.5 |
| August | 80 | 59 | 67 | 2.6 | 5.5 | 0.1 |
| September | 70 | 49 | 57 | 2.3 | 6.2 | 0.3 |
| October | 56 | 37 | 44 | 1.4 | 5.7 | 0.1 |
| November | 34 | 20 | 26 | 0.7 | 3.3 | 0.0 |
| December | 20 | 6 | 12 | 0.6 | 1.4 | 0.0 |

Source: AFCCC/DOO, October 1998

Wind speed averages 10 miles per hour (mph). A maximum wind speed of 74 mph has been recorded. Wind direction is generally from the northwest during the late fall, winter, and spring, and from the southeast during the summer.

Grand Forks County is included in the ND Air Quality Control Region. This region is in attainment status for all criteria pollutants. In 1997, the ND Department of Health (NDDH) conducted an Air Quality Monitoring Survey that indicated that the quality of ambient air in ND is generally good as it is located in an attainment area (NDDH, 1998). Grand Forks AFB has the following air permits: T5-F78004 (permit to operate) issued by NDDH and a CAA Title V air emissions permit.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) established the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), which define the maximum allowable concentrations of pollutants that may be reached, but not exceeded within a given time period. The NAAQS regulates the following criteria pollutants: Ozone (O_3), carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), sulfur dioxide (SO_2), lead (Pb), and particulate matter. The ND Ambient Air Quality Standards (NDAAQS) were set by the State of ND. These standards are more stringent and emissions for operations in ND must comply with the Federal or State standard that is the most restrictive. There is also a standard for hydrogen sulfide (H_2S) in ND.

Prevention of significant deterioration (PSD) regulations establish SO_2 and total suspended particles (TSP) that can be emitted above a premeasured amount in each of three class areas. Grand Forks AFB is located in a PSD Class II area where moderate, well-controlled industrial growth could be permitted. Class I areas are pristine areas and include national parks and wilderness areas. Significant increases in emissions from stationary sources (100 tons per year (tpy) of CO, 40 tpy of NO_x , VOCs, or SO_x , or 15 tpy of particulate matter 10 microns in diameter [PM_{10}]) and the addition of major sources requires compliance with PSD regulations.

Air pollutants include O_3 , CO, NO_2 , SO_2 , Pb, and particulate matter. Ground disturbing activities create PM_{10} and particulate matter 25 microns in diameter ($PM_{2.5}$). Combustion creates CO, SO_2 , PM_{10} , and $PM_{2.5}$ particulate matter and the precursors (volatile organic compounds [VOC] and NO_2) to O_3 . Only a small amount of Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAP) are generated from internal combustion processes or earth-moving activities. The Grand Forks AFB Final Emissions Survey Report (USAF, 1996) reported that Grand Forks AFB only generated small levels HAPs, 10.3 tpy of combined HAPs and 2.2 tpy maximum of a single HAP (methyl ethyl ketone). Methyl Ethyl Ketone is associated with aircraft and vehicle maintenance and repair. Secondary sources include fuel storage and dispensing (USAF, 2001a).

Table 3.2-2
National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and ND Ambient Air Quality Standards (NDAAQS)

| Pollutant | Averaging Time | NAAQS μg/m ³ (ppm) ^a | | NDAAQS μg/m ³ (ppm) ^a |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|---|------------------------|--|
| | | Primary ^b | Secondary ^c | |
| O ₃ | 1 hr | 235 (0.12) | Same | Same |
| | 8 hr ^e | 157 (0.08) | Same | |
| CO | 1 hr | 40,000 (35) | None | 40 (35) |
| | 8 hr | 10,000 (9) | None | 10 (9) |
| NO ₂ | AAM ^d | 100 (0.053) | Same | Same |
| SO ₂ | 1 hr | None | None | 715 (0.273) |
| | 3 hr | None | 1,300 (0.5) | None |
| | 24 hr | 365 (0.14) | None | 260 (0.099) |
| | AAM | 80 (0.03) | None | 60 (0.023) |
| PM ₁₀ | AAM | 50 | Same | Same |
| | 24 hr | 150 | Same | Same |
| PM _{2.5} ^e | AAM | 65 | Same | None |
| | 24 hr | 15 | Same | None |
| Pb | 1/4 year | 1.5 | Same | Same |
| H ₂ S | 1 hr | None | None | 280 (0.20) |
| | 24 hr | None | None | 140 (0.10) |
| | 3 mth | None | None | 28 (0.02) |
| | AAM | None | None | 14 (10) |

^aμg/m³ – micrograms per cubic meter; ppm – parts per million

^bNational Primary Standards establish the level of air quality necessary to protect the public health from any known or anticipated adverse effects of pollutant, allowing a margin of safety to protect sensitive members of the population.

^cNational Secondary Standards establish the level of air quality necessary to protect the public welfare by preventing injury to agricultural crops and livestock, deterioration of materials and property, and adverse impacts on the environment.

^dAAM – Annual Arithmetic Mean.

^eThe Ozone 8-hour standard and the PM 2.5 standards are included for information only. A 1999 federal court ruling blocked implementation of these standards, which EPA proposed in 1997. EPA has asked the US Supreme Court to reconsider that decision (USEPA, 2000).

PM₁₀ is particulate matter equal to or less than 10 microns in diameter.

PM_{2.5} is particulate matter equal to or less than 2.5 microns in diameter.

Source: 40 CFR 50, ND Air Pollution Control Regulations – NDAC 33-15

3.3 NOISE

Noise generated on Grand Forks AFB consists mostly of aircraft, vehicular traffic and construction activity. Most noise is generated from aircraft during takeoff and landing and not from ground traffic. Noise levels are dependent upon type of aircraft, type of operations, and distance from the observer to the aircraft. Duration of the noise is dependent upon proximity of the aircraft, speed, and orientation with respect to the observer.

Table 3.3-1
Typical Decibel Levels Encountered in the Environment and Industry

| Sound Level (dBA) | Maximum Exposure Limits | Source of Noise | Subjective Impression |
|-------------------|-------------------------|--|--|
| 10 | | | Threshold of hearing |
| 20 | | Still recording studio; Rustling leaves | |
| 30 | | Quiet bedroom | |
| 35 | | Soft whisper at 5 feet; Typical library | |
| 40 | | Quiet urban setting (nighttime); Normal level in home | Threshold of quiet |
| 45 | | Large transformer at 200 ft | |
| 50 | | Private business office; Light traffic at 100 ft; Quiet urban setting (daytime) | |
| 55 | | Window air conditioner; Men's clothing department in store | Desirable limit for outdoor residential area use (EPA) |
| 60 | | Conversation speech; Data processing center | |
| 65 | | Busy restaurant; Automobile at 100 ft | Acceptable level for residential land use |
| 70 | | Vacuum cleaner in home; Freight train at 100 ft | Threshold of moderately loud |
| 75 | | Freeway at 10 ft | |
| 80 | | Ringing alarm clock at 2 ft; Kitchen garbage disposal; Loud orchestral music in large room | Most residents annoyed |
| 85 | | Printing press; Boiler room; Heavy truck at 50 ft | Threshold of hearing damage for prolonged exposure |
| 90 | 8 hr | Heavy city traffic | |
| 95 | 4 hr | Freight train at 50 ft; Home lawn mower | |
| 100 | 2 hr | Pile driver at 50 ft; Heavy diesel equipment at 25 ft | Threshold of very loud |
| 105 | 1 hr | Banging on steel plate; Air Hammer | |
| 110 | 0.5 hr | Rock music concert; Turbine condenser | |
| 115 | 0.25 hr | Jet plane overhead at 500 ft | |
| 120 | < 0.25 hr | Jet plane taking off at 200 ft | Threshold of pain |
| 135 | < 0.25 hr | Civil defense siren at 100 ft | Threshold of extremely loud |

Source: US Army, 1978

Table 3.3-2
Approximate Sound Levels (dBA) of Construction Equipment

| Equipment Type | Sound Levels (dBA) at Various Distances (ft) | | | | | |
|------------------|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| | 50 | 100 | 200 | 400 | 800 | 1,600 |
| Front-end Loader | 84 | 78 | 72 | 66 | 60 | 54 |
| Dump Truck | 83 | 77 | 71 | 65 | 59 | 53 |
| Truck | 83 | 77 | 71 | 65 | 59 | 53 |
| Tractor | 84 | 78 | 72 | 66 | 58 | 52 |

Source: Thurman, 1976; US Army, 1978

Because military installations attract development in proximity to their airfields, the potential exists for urban encroachment and incompatible development. The AF utilizes a program known

as AICUZ to help alleviate noise and accident potential problems due to unsuitable community development. AICUZ recommendations give surrounding communities alternatives to help prevent urban encroachment. Noise contours are developed from the Day-Night Average A-Weighted Sound Level (DNL) data which defines the noise created by flight operations and ground-based activities. The AICUZ also defines Accident Potential Zones (APZs), which are rectangular corridors extending from the ends of the runways. Recommended land use activities and densities in the APZs for residential, commercial, and industrial uses are provided in the base's AICUZ study. Grand Forks AFB takes measures to minimize noise levels by evaluating aircraft operations. Blast deflectors are utilized in designated areas to deflect blast and minimize exposure to noise.

3.4 WASTES, HAZARDOUS MATERIALS, AND STORED FUELS

Hazardous wastes, as listed under the RCRA, are defined as any solid, liquid, contained gaseous, or combination of wastes that pose a substantive or potential hazard to human health or the environment. On-base hazardous waste generation involves three types of on-base sites: an accumulation point (90-day), satellite accumulation points, and spill cleanup equipment and materials storage (USAF, 2001c). Discharge and emergency response equipment is maintained in accessible areas throughout Grand Forks AFB. The Fire Department maintains adequate fire response and discharge control and containment equipment. Equipment stores are maintained in buildings 523 and 530. Petroleum contaminated soils generated from excavations throughout the base can be treated at the land treatment facility located on base. These solid wastes are tilled or turned several times a year to remediate the soils to acceptable levels.

Hardfill, construction debris, and inert waste generated by Grand Forks AFB are disposed of at a permitted off-base landfill. All on-base household garbage and solid waste is collected by a contractor and transported to the Grand Forks County Landfill, which opened in 1982.

Recyclable materials from industrial facilities are collected in the recycling facility, off the southeast corner of building 408. Paper, glass, plastics, cardboard, and wood are collected in separate storage bins. Curbside containers are used in housing for recyclable materials. A contractor collects these materials and transports them off base.

The Environmental Management Flight manages the hazardous material through a contract with Pacific Environmental Services. Typical hazardous materials include reactive materials such as explosives, ignitables, toxics, and corrosives. Improper storage can impact human health and the safety of the environment.

Since Grand Forks AFB is a military installation with a flying mission, there are several aboveground and underground fuel storage tanks. None of the alternatives would impact fuel storage tanks.

3.5 WATER RESOURCES

3.5.1 Groundwater

Chemical quality of groundwater is dependent upon the amount and type of dissolved gases, minerals, and organic material leached by water from surrounding rocks as it flows from recharge to discharge areas. The water table depth varies throughout the base, from a typical 1-3 feet to 10 feet or more below the surface.

Even though the Dakota Aquifer has produced more water than any other aquifer in Grand Forks County, the water is very saline and generally unsatisfactory for domestic and most industrial uses. Its primary use is for livestock watering. It is a sodium chloride type water with total dissolved solids concentrations of about 4,400 parts per million. The water generally contains excessive chloride, iron, sulfate, total dissolved solids, and fluoride. The water from the Dakota is highly toxic to most domestic plants and small grain crops, and in places, the water is too highly mineralized for use as livestock water (Hansen and Kume, 1970).

Water from wells tapping the Emerado Aquifer near Grand Forks AFB is generally of poor quality due to upward leakage of poor quality water from underlying bedrock aquifers. It is sodium sulfate type water with excessive hardness, chloride, sulfate, and total dissolved solids. Water from the Lake Agassiz beach aquifers is usually of good chemical quality in Grand Forks County. The water is a calcium bicarbonate type that is relatively soft. The total dissolved content ranges from 308 to 1,490 PPM. Most water from beach aquifers is satisfactory for industrial, livestock, and agricultural uses (Hansen and Kume, 1970).

Grand Forks AFB draws 85 to 90 percent of its water for industrial, commercial and housing functions from the City of Grand Forks and 10 to 15 percent from Agassiz Water.

3.5.2 Surface Water

Natural surface water features located on or near Grand Forks AFB are the Turtle River and Kelly's Slough National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). Drainage from surface water channels ultimately flows into the Red River.

The Turtle River, crossing the base boundary at the northwest corner, is very sinuous and generally flows in a northeasterly direction. It receives surface water runoff from the western portion of Grand Forks AFB and eventually empties into the Red River of the North that flows north to Lake Winnipeg, Canada. The Red River drainage basin is part of the Hudson Bay drainage system. At Manvel, ND, approximately 10 miles northeast of Grand Forks AFB, the mean discharge of the Turtle River is 50.3 ft³/s. Peak flows result from spring runoff in April and minimum flows (or no flow in some years) occur in January and February.

NDDH has designated the Turtle River to be a Class II stream, it may be intermittent, but, when flowing, the quality of the water, after treatment, meets the chemical, physical, and bacteriological requirements of the NDDH for municipal use. The designation also states that it

is of sufficient quality to permit use for irrigation, for propagation of life for resident fish species, and for boating, swimming, and other water recreation.

Kelly's Slough NWR occupies a wide, marshy flood plain with a poorly defined stream channel, approximately two miles east and downstream of Grand Forks AFB. Kelly's Slough NWR receives surface water runoff from the east half of the base and effluent from the base sewage lagoons located east of the base. Surface water flow of the slough is northeasterly into the Turtle River Drainage from surface water channels ultimately flowing into the Red River.

Floodplains are limited to an area 250 feet on either side of Turtle River (about 46 acres on base). Appendix C contains a map depicting floodplains. Any development in or modifications to floodplains must be coordinated with the Corps of Engineers and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Surface water runoff leaves Grand Forks AFB at four primary locations related to identifiable drainage areas on base. The four sites are identified as northeast, northwest, west, and southeast related to the base proper. These outfalls were approved by the NDDH as stated in the Grand Forks AFB ND Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NDPDES) Permit NDR02-0314 Stormwater Discharges from Industrial Activity. Of the four outfall locations, the west and northwest sites flow into the Turtle River, the northeast site flows to the north ditch and the southeast outfall flows into the south ditch. The latter two flow to Kelly's Slough and then the Turtle River. All drainage from these surface water channels ultimately flows into the Red River. The Bioenvironmental Engineering Office samples the four outfall locations during months when de-icing activities occur on base.

3.5.3 Wastewater

Grand Forks AFB discharges its domestic and industrial wastewater to four stabilization lagoons located east of the main base. The four separate treatment cells consist of one primary treatment cell, two secondary treatment cells, and one tertiary treatment cell. Wastewater effluent is discharged under ND Permit ND0020621 into Kelly's Slough. Wastewater discharge occurs for about one week, sometime between mid-April though October. Industrial wastewater at the base comprises less than ten percent of the total flow to the treatment lagoons.

3.5.4 Water Quality

According to the National Water Quality Inventory Report (USEPA, 1995), ND reports the majority of rivers and streams have good water quality. Natural conditions, such as low flows, can contribute to violations of water quality standards. During low flow periods, the rivers are generally too saline for domestic use. Grand Forks AFB receives water from Grand Forks and Lake Agassiz Water. The city recovers its water from the Red River and the Red Lake River, while the water association provides water from aquifers. The water association recovers water from well systems within glacial drift aquifers (USAF, 1999). The 319th Civil Engineering Squadron tests the water received on base daily for fluorine and chlorine. The 319th Bioenvironmental Flight collects monthly bacteriological samples to be analyzed at the ND State Laboratory.

3.5.5 Wetlands

About 246,900 acres in the county are drained wetland Type I (wet meadow) to Type V (open freshwater). Approximately 59,500 acres of wetland Type I to V are used for wetland habitat. Wetland Types IV and V include areas of inland saline marshes and open saline water. Kelly's Slough NWR occupies a wide, marshy flood plain with a poorly defined stream channel, approximately two miles east and downstream of Grand Forks AFB. Kelly's Slough NWR is the most important regional wetland area in the Grand Forks vicinity. EO 11990 requires zero loss of wetlands. Grand Forks AFB has 49 wetlands, covering 23.9 acres of wetlands (see Appendix C), including 33 jurisdictional wetlands covering 12.2 acres. Wetlands on Grand Forks AFB occur frequently in drainage ways, low-lying depressions, and potholes. Wetlands are highly concentrated in drainage ways leading from the wastewater treatment lagoons to Kelly's Slough NWR. The majority of wetland areas occur in the northern and central portions of base, near the runway, while the remaining areas are near the eastern boundary and southeastern corner of base. Development in or near these areas must include coordination with the ND State Water Commission and the US Army Corps of Engineers.

3.6 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

3.6.1 Vegetation

Plants include a large variety of naturally occurring native plants. Because of the agrarian nature of Grand Forks County, cropland is the predominant element for wildlife habitat. Pastures, meadows, and other non-cultivated areas are overgrown with grasses, legumes, and wild herbaceous plants. Included in the grasses and legumes vegetation species are tall wheat grass, bromegrass, sweet clover, and alfalfa. Herbaceous plants include little bluestem, goldenrod, green needle grass, western wheat grass, and bluegrama. Shrubs such as juneberry, dogwood, hawthorn, and snowberry also are found in the area. In wetland areas, predominant species include smartweed, wild millet, cord grass, bulrushes, sedges, and reeds. These habitats for upland wildlife and wetland wildlife attract a variety of species to the area and support many aquatic species.

Various researchers, most associated with the University of ND, have studied current native floras in the vicinity of the base. Prior to 1993 field investigations, ten natural communities occurring in Grand Forks County were identified in the ND Natural Heritage Inventory (1994). Of these, only one community, Lowland Woodland, is represented within the base boundaries. Dominant trees in this community are elm, cottonwood, and green ash. Dutch elm disease has killed many of the elms. European buckthorn (a highly invasive exotic species), chokecherry, and wood rose (*Rosa woodsii*) are common in the understory in this area. Wood nettle (*Laportea canadensis*), stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*), beggars' ticks (*Bidens frondosa*), and waterleaf (*Hydrophyllum virginianum*) are typical forbes.

One hundred and forty two total taxa, representing less than a third of the known Grand Forks County plant taxa, were identified in the ND Natural Heritage Inventory. No rare plants species are known to exist on Grand Forks AFB.

3.6.2 Wildlife

Ground Forks County is primarily cropland although there are wildlife areas located within the county. Kelly's Slough NWR is located a couple miles northeast of Grand Forks AFB. In addition to being a wetland, it is a stopover point for migratory birds. The Prairie Chicken Wildlife Management Area is located north of Mekinock and contains 1,160 acres of habitat for deer, sharp-tailed grouse, and game birds. Wildlife can also be found at the Turtle River State Park, The Bremer Nature Trail, and the Myra Arboretum.

There is minimal habitat for wildlife on Grand Forks AFB due to extensive development. White tail deer, eastern cottontail, and ring-neck pheasant can be found on base. The proposed project area only provides low-quality foraging habitat for small animals.

3.6.3 Threatened and Endangered Species

According to the 1994 ND Natural Heritage Inventory, "There are no known federally threatened or endangered species populations on or adjacent to Grand Forks AFB." The base does have infrequent use by migratory threatened and endangered species, such as the bald eagle and peregrine falcon, but there are no critical or significant habitats for those species present. The inventory also indicated that red-breasted nuthatch and moose are two special concern species. They have been observed on base near Turtle River. The inventory also indicated that there is no habitat on or near Grand Forks AFB to sustain a moose population. Red-breasted nuthatches prefer woodland habitats dominated by conifers. These birds are transients and pose no particular concern. The ESA does require that Federal Agencies not jeopardize the existence of a threatened or endangered species nor destroy or adversely modify designated critical habitat for threatened or endangered species.

3.7 SOCIOECONOMIC RESOURCES

Grand Forks County is primarily an agricultural region and, as part of the Red River Valley, is one of the world's most fertile. Cash crops include sugar beets, beans, corn, barley, and oats. The valley ranks first in the nation in the production of potatoes, spring wheat, sunflowers, and durum wheat. Grand Forks County's population in 2000 was 66,109, a decrease of 6.5 percent from the 1990 population of 70,638 (ND State Data Center, No Date). Grand Forks County's annual mean wage in Oct 2001 was \$26,715 (Job Service of ND, 2001). Grand Forks AFB is one of the largest employers in Grand Forks County. As of May 2003, Grand Forks AFB had 3,165 active duty military members and 338 civilian employees. The total annual economic impact for Grand Forks AFB is \$325,647, 980.

3.8 CULTURAL RESOURCES

According to the Grand Forks AFB Cultural Resources Management Plan, there are no archeological sites that are potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). A total of six archeological sites and six archeological find spots have been identified on the base. None meet the criteria of eligibility of the NRHP established in 36 CFR 60.4. There is no evidence for Native American burial grounds, or other culturally sensitive areas. Paleosols (soil that developed on a past landscape) remain a management concern requiring Section 106 compliance. Reconnaissance-level archival and archeological surveys of Grand Forks AFB conducted by the University of ND in 1989 indicated that there are no facilities (50 years or older) that possess historical significance. The base is currently consulting with the ND Historical Society on the future use of eight Cold War Era facilities. These are buildings 313, 606, 703-707, and 714.

3.9 LAND USE

Land use in Grand Forks County consists primarily of cultivated crops with remaining land used for pasture and hay, urban development, recreation, and wildlife habitat. Principal crops are spring wheat, barley, sunflowers, potatoes, and sugar beets. Turtle River State Park, developed as a recreation area in Grand Forks County, is located about five miles west of the base. Several watershed protection dams are being developed for recreation activities including picnicking, swimming, and ball fields. Wildlife habitat is very limited in the county. Kelly's Slough NWR (located about two miles east of the base) and the adjacent National Waterfowl Production Area are managed for wetland wildlife and migratory waterfowl, but they also include a significant acreage of open land wildlife habitat.

The main base encompasses 5,420 acres, of which the AF owns 4,830 acres and another 590 acres are lands containing easements, permits, and licenses. Improved grounds, consisting of all covered area (under buildings and sidewalks), land surrounding base buildings, the 9-hole golf course, recreational ballfields, and the family housing area, encompass 1,120 acres. Semi-improved grounds, including the airfield, fence lines and ditch banks, skeet range, and riding stables account for 1,390 acres. The remaining 2,910 acres of the installation consist of unimproved grounds. These areas are comprised of woodlands, open space, and wetlands, including four lagoons (180.4 acres) used for the treatment of base wastewater. Agricultural outleased land (1,040 acres) is also classified as unimproved. Land use at the base is solely urban in nature, with residential development to the south and cropland, hayfields, and pastures to the north, west, and east.

3.10 TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS

Seven thousand vehicles per day travel ND County Road B3 from Grand Forks AFB's east gate to the US Highway 2 Interchange (Clayton, 2001). Two thousand vehicles per day use the off-ramp from US Highway 2 onto ND County Road B3 (Dunn, 2001). US Highway 2, east of the base interchange, handles 10,800 vehicles per day. (Kingsley and Kuntz, 2001). A four lane

arterial road has a capacity of 6,000 vehicles per hour and a two lane, 3,000, based on the average capacity of 1,500 per hour per lane. Roadways adjacent to Grand Forks AFB are quite capable of accommodating existing traffic flows (USAF, 2001a).

Grand Forks AFB has good traffic flow even during peak hours (6-8 am and 4-6 pm). There are two gates: the main gate located off of County Road B-3, about one mile north of U.S. Highway 2, and the Secondary Gate located off of U.S. Highway 2, about 3/4 mile west of County Road B-3. The main gate is connected to Steen Blvd, which is the main east-west road, and the south gate is connected to Eielson St, which is the main north-south road.

3.11 AIRSPACE/AIRFIELD OPERATIONS

3.11.1 AIRCRAFT SAFETY

Bird Aircraft Strike Hazard (BASH) is a major safety concern for military aircraft. Collision with birds may result in aircraft damage and aircrew injury, which may result in high repair costs or loss of the aircraft. A BASH hazard exists at Grand Forks AFB and its vicinity, due to resident and migratory birds. Daily and seasonal bird movements create various hazardous conditions. Although BASH problems are minimal, Kelly's Slough NWR is a major stopover for migratory birds. Canadian Geese and other large waterfowl have been seen in the area (USAF, 2001b).

3.11.2 AIRSPACE COMPATIBILITY

The primary objective of airspace management is to ensure the best possible use of available airspace to meet user needs and to segregate requirements that are incompatible with existing airspace or land uses. The Federal Aviation Administration has overall responsibility for managing the nation's airspace and constantly reviews civil and military airspace needs to ensure all interests are compatibly served to the greatest extent possible. Airspace is regulated and managed through use of flight rules, designated aeronautical maps, and air traffic control procedures and separation criteria.

3.12 SAFETY AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

Safety and occupational health issues include one-time and long-term exposure. Examples include asbestos/radiation/chemical exposure, explosives safety quantity-distance, and bird/wildlife aircraft hazard. Safety issues include injuries or deaths resulting from a one-time accident. Aircraft Safety includes information on birds/wildlife aircraft hazards and the BASH program. Health issues include long-term exposure to chemicals such as asbestos and lead-based paint. Safety and occupational health concerns could impact personnel working on the project and in the surrounding area.

The National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) of the CAA designates asbestos as HAP. OSHA provides worker protection for employees who work around or asbestos containing material (ACM). Regulated ACM (RACM) includes thermal system

insulation (TSI), any surfacing material, and any friable asbestos material. Non-regulated Category I non-friable ACM includes floor tile and joint compound.

Lead exposure can result from paint chips or dust or inhalation of lead vapors from torch-cutting operations. This exposure can affect the human nervous system. Due to the size of children, exposure to lead based paint is especially dangerous to small children. OSHA considers all painted surfaces in which lead is detectable to have a potential for occupational health exposure.

3.13 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

3.13.1 INSTALLATION RESTORATION PROGRAM

The Installation Restoration Program (IRP) is the AF's environmental restoration program based on the CERCLA. CERCLA provides for Federal agencies with the authority to inventory, investigate, and clean up uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites. There are seven IRP sites at Grand Forks AFB. These sites are identified as potentially impacted by past hazardous material or hazardous waste activities. They are the Fire Training Area/Old Sanitary Landfill Area, New Sanitary Landfill Area, Strategic Air Ground Equipment (SAGE) Building 306, Explosive Ordnance Detonation Area, Refueling Ramps and Pads, Base Tanks Area, and POL Off-Loading Area (USAF, 1997b). Two sites are considered closed, OT-05 and ST-06. ST-08 has had a remedial investigation/feasibility study (RI/FS) completed and the rest are in long-term monitoring. Grand Forks AFB is not on the National Priorities List (NPL).

3.13.2 GEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

3.13.2.1 Physiography and Topography

The topography of Grand Forks County ranges from broad, flat plains to gently rolling hills that were produced mainly by glacial activity. Local relief rarely exceeds 100 feet in one mile, and, in parts of the lake basin, less than five feet in one mile.

Grand Forks AFB is located within the Central Lowlands physiographic province. The topography of Grand Forks County, and the entire Red River Valley, is largely a result of the former existence of Glacial Lake Agassiz, which existed in this area during the melting of the last glacier, about 12,000 years ago (Stoner et al., 1993). The eastern four-fifths of Grand Forks County, including the base, lies in the Agassiz Lake Plain District, which extends westward to the Pembina escarpment in the western portion of the county. The escarpment separates the Agassiz Lake Plain District from the Drift Plain District to the west. Glacial Lake Agassiz occupied the valley in a series of recessive lake stages, most of which were sufficient duration to produce shoreline features inland from the edge of the lake. Prominent physiographic features of the Agassiz Lake Plain District are remnant lake plains, beaches, inter-beach areas, and delta plains. Strandline deposits, associated with fluctuating lake levels, are also present and are indicated by narrow ridges of sand and gravel that typically trend northwest-southwest in Grand Forks County.

Grand Forks AFB lies on a large lake plain in the eastern portion of Grand Forks County. The lake plain is characterized by somewhat poorly drained flats and swells, separated by poorly drained shallow swells and sloughs (Doolittle et al., 1981). The plain is generally level, with local relief being less than one foot. Land at the base is relatively flat, with elevations ranging from 880 to 920 feet mean sea level (MSL) and averaging about 890 feet MSL. The land slopes to the north at less than 12 feet per mile

3.13.2.2 Soil Type Condition

Soils consist of the Gilby loam series that are characterized by deep, somewhat poorly drained, moderately to slowly permeable soils in areas between beach ridges. The loam can be found from 0 to 12 inches. From 12 to 26 inches, the soil is a mixture of loam, silt loam, and very fine sandy loam. From 26 to 60 inches, the soil is loam and clay loam.

3.13.3 PESTICIDE MANAGEMENT

Pesticides are handled at various facilities including Environmental Controls, Golf Course Maintenance, and Grounds Maintenance. Other organizations assist in the management of pesticides and monitoring or personnel working with pesticides. Primary uses are for weed and mosquito control. Herbicides, such as Round-up, are used to maintain areas adjacent to roadways. Military Public Health and Bioenvironmental Engineering provide information on the safe handling, storage, and use of pesticides. Military Public Health maintains records on all pesticide applicators. The Fire Department provides emergency response in the event of a spill, fire, or similar type incident.

3.14 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Environmental justice addresses the minority and low-income characteristics of the area, in this case Grand Forks County. The county is more than 93 percent Caucasian, 2.3 percent Native American, 1.4 percent African-American, 1 percent Asian/Pacific Islander, less than 1 percent Other, and 1.6 percent “Two or more races”. In comparison, the US is 97.6 percent Caucasian, 12.3 African-American, 0.9 percent Native American or Native Alaskan, 3.6 percent Asian, 0.1 Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, 5.5 percent Other, and 2.4 percent “Two or more races”. Approximately 12.5 percent of the county’s population is below the poverty level in comparison to 13.3 percent the state (US Bureau of the Census, 2002). There are few residences and no concentrations of low-income or minority populations around Grand Forks AFB.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

4.1 INTRODUCTION

The effects of the proposed action and the alternatives on the affected environment are discussed in this section. The project involves construction of an addition to the multi-use trail system on Grand Forks AFB.

4.2 AIR QUALITY

4.2.1 Alternative 1 (Proposed Action)

Construction activities would result in a short-term minimal increase of criteria air pollutants, as fuel (gasoline and diesel) that is burned by internal combustion engine power construction and earth-moving equipment. Heavy construction equipment would generate the most emissions. The constituents of exhaust include CO, NO_x, and VOCs. Earth moving activities would generate fugitive dust (PM₁₀). Fugitive dust emissions and construction vehicle exhaust would be generated by all phases of construction, but the dust would be controlled to the maximum extent possible by utilizing wind barriers and stabilizing the exposed soil. Best management practices to reduce fugitive emissions, such as daily watering of the disturbed ground and replacing ground cover in disturbed areas as quickly as possible, would be implemented to the maximum extent possible to reduce the amount of these emissions. This short-term increase in combustion related pollutants would occur only during construction and impacts to air quality would not be significant. Air Quality in ND is considered good and the area is in attainment for all criteria pollutants.

4.2.2 Alternative 2

Impacts would be similar to those generated under the proposed action.

4.2.3 Alternative 3 (No Action)

The no action alternative would have no impact on air quality.

4.3 NOISE

4.3.1 Alternative 1 (Proposed Action)

The short-term operation of heavy equipment in the construction area would generate additional noise. These noise impacts would exist only during construction and would cease after completion. The increase in noise from construction activities would be negligible.

4.3.2 Alternative 2

Impacts would be similar to those generated under the proposed action.

4.3.3 Alternative 3 (No Action)

The no action alternative would have no impact on noise.

4.4 WASTES, HAZARDOUS MATERIALS, AND STORED FUELS

4.4.1 Alternative 1 (Proposed Action)

The increase in hazardous and solid wastes from construction related activities would be minimal and temporary. Construction debris would be disposed of in approved location, such as the Grand Forks Municipal Landfill, which is located within 12 miles of the construction site.

4.4.2 Alternative 2

Impacts would be similar to those generated under the proposed action.

4.4.3 Alternative 3 (No Action)

The no action alternative would have no impact on hazardous or solid waste generation.

4.5 WATER RESOURCES

4.5.1 Alternative 1 (Proposed Action)

Groundwater: Excavation would most probably not intercept the water table. If the excavated area fills with surface water, which is contaminated by materials used during construction, groundwater could be exposed to contaminants by infiltration. Provided best management practices are followed, there would be minimal impacts to ground water.

Surface Water: Surface water quality could degrade in the short-term, during actual construction, due to possible erosion contributing to turbidity of runoff and due to possible contamination from spills, leaks from construction equipment. Surface water could be impacted if, due to storm water inflow to the excavation, the operators would need to pump out the excavation. The operator shall utilize effective methods to control surface water runoff and to minimize erosion. Proper stabilization and seeding the site immediately upon completion of the construction would provide beneficial vegetation to control erosion. Provided best management practices are utilized during construction, negative surface water impacts should be minimal.

Water Quality: Provided all containment needs are met and best management practices are used, the proposed action would have minimal impact to water quality.

Wastewater: The proposed action would have no impact on wastewater.

Wetlands: The proposed action will have a direct impact on an isolated wetland area. This area was negatively impact during previous work on part of this project and will now have to be restored to its previous state. Soil at the intersection of the wetland and ditch will have to be restored to its pre disturbance conditions. The net effect will be to restore the wetland to its original size and shape.

4.5.2 Alternative 2

Impacts would be similar to those generated under the proposed action. This alternative would not repair previous damage to the wetland and would continue to impact water level in the wetland.

4.5.3 Alternative 3 (No Action)

The no action alternative would not repair previous damage to the wetland. With no restoration, the damage done previously would remain uncorrected and would continue to impact the water level in the wetland.

4.6 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

4.6.1 Alternative 1 (Proposed Action)

Vegetation: Best management practices and control measures, including silt fences and covering of stockpiles, would be implemented to ensure that impacts to biological resources be kept to a minimum. The amount of vegetation disturbed would be kept to the minimum required to complete the action. Disturbed areas would be re-established. There would be a loss of vegetation from the paving the multi-use trail. The project would be beneficial to the vegetation in the wetland due to its restoration.

Wildlife: Construction would have insignificant impacts to wildlife. These areas provide low quality foraging habitat for small mammals, such as mice and rabbits. Due to the abundance and mobility of these species and the profusion of natural habitats in the general vicinity, any wildlife disturbed would be able to find similar habitat in the local area.

Threatened or Endangered Species: According to the 1994 ND Natural Heritage Inventory (1994), “There are no known federally threatened or endangered species populations on or adjacent to Grand Forks AFB.” The construction area does not include optimal habitat for any of the transient federal-or state-listed species that may occur in Grand Forks County.

4.6.2 Alternative 2

Impacts would be similar to those generated under the proposed action.

4.6.3 Alternative 3 (No Action)

The no action alternative would have no impact on biological resources.

4.7 SOCIOECONOMIC RESOURCES

4.7.1 Alternative 1 (Proposed Action)

Grand Forks AFB personnel would construct the addition to the multi-use trail system and a contractor would pave the trail. Secondary retail purchases would make an additional contribution to the local communities. The implementation of the proposed action, therefore, would provide a short-term, minimal beneficial impact to local retailers during the construction phase of the project.

4.7.2 Alternative 2

Impacts would be similar to those generated under the proposed action.

4.7.3 Alternative 3 (No Action)

The no action alternative would have no impact on socioeconomics.

4.8 CULTURAL RESOURCES

4.8.1 Alternative 1 (Proposed Action)

The proposed action has little potential to impact cultural resources. In the unlikely event any such artifacts were discovered during the construction activities, the contractor would be instructed to halt construction and immediately notify Grand Forks AFB civil engineers who would notify the State Historic Preservation Officer.

4.8.2 Alternative 2

Impacts would be similar to those generated under the proposed action.

4.8.3 Alternative 3 (No Action)

The no action alternative would have no impact on cultural resources.

4.9 LAND USE

4.9.1 Alternative 1 (Proposed Action)

The proposed construction would not have an impact on land use.

4.9.2 Alternative 2

Alternative 2 would not have an impact on land use.

4.9.3 Alternative 3 (No Action)

The no action alternative would have no impact on land use.

4.10 TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS

4.10.1 Alternative 1 (Proposed Action)

Roadways on and adjacent to Grand Forks AFB are quite capable of accommodating existing traffic flows. There would be a minimal increase to traffic flows from the contractor traveling to the base. Impacts to the on-base transportation system would be short-term and minimal due to usage by the contractor and on base personnel working at the construction site.

4.10.2 Alternative 2

Impacts would be similar to those generated under the proposed action.

4.10.3 Alternative 3 (No Action)

The action would have no impact on transportation.

4.11 AIRSPACE/AIRFIELD OPERATIONS

4.11.1 Alternative 1 (Proposed Action)

The proposed action would have no impact on aircraft safety or airspace compatibility.

4.11.2 Alternative 2

The action would have no impact on aircraft safety or airspace compatibility.

4.11.3 Alternative 3 (No Action)

The no action alternative would have no impact on aircraft safety or airspace compatibility.

4.12 SAFETY AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

4.12.1 Alternative 1 (Proposed Action)

The proposed action would provide a safer recreation opportunity on Grand Forks AFB. Base residents would be able to utilize the trail instead of base streets.

4.12.2 Alternative 2

Impacts would be similar to those generated under the proposed action.

4.12.3 Alternative 3 (No Action)

The no action alternative would not impact safety and occupational health.

4.13 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

4.13.1.1 Alternative 1 (Proposed Action)

IRP: The proposed action would have no impact on an IRP Sites.

Geology: Sediment located at the proposed construction site would be temporarily disturbed during construction. Underlying geology in some areas could be affected by construction activities. Best management practices would be implemented to prevent erosion. The hazard of wind erosion is moderate and considerable erosion could occur on stockpiled soils. Best management practices, such as daily watering and revegetating soils as soon as possible would reduce the impacts of erosion. At the conclusion of construction, the disturbed soils would be rolled and reseeded.

Pesticides: No pesticides would be used as part of this project.

4.13.1.2 Alternative 2

Impacts would be similar to those generated under the proposed action.

4.13.1.3 Alternative 3 (No Action)

The no action alternative would have no impact on IRP Sites or geological resources. No pesticides would be used as part of this project.

4.14 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

4.14.1 Alternative 1 (Proposed Action)

EO 12898 requires federal agencies to identify and address, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of their programs, policies, and activities on minority and low-income populations. There are no minority or low-income populations in the area of the proposed action or alternatives, and, thus, there would be no disproportionately high or adverse impact on such populations.

4.14.2 Alternative 2

Impacts would be similar to those generated under the proposed action.

4.14.3 Alternative 3 (No Action)

The no action alternative would not impact safety and occupational health.

4.15 INDIRECT AND CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

The short-term increases in air emissions and noise during construction and demolition, and the impacts predicted for other resource areas, would not be significant when considered cumulatively with other ongoing and planned activities at Grand Forks AFB and nearby off-base areas. The cumulative impact of the Proposed Action or Alternative with other ongoing construction in the area would produce and increase in solid waste generation; however, the increase would be limited to the timeframe of each construction project. The area landfill used for construction and demolition debris does not have capacity concerns and could readily handle the solid waste generated by the various projects.

4.16 UNAVOIDABLE ADVERSE IMPACTS

The use of construction-related vehicles and their short-term impacts on noise, air quality, and traffic is unavoidable.

4.17 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SHORT-TERM USES AND ENHANCEMENT OF LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY

The proposed action and alternative would involve the use of previously undeveloped areas. A wetland would be restored to previous conditions to restore its productivity. No croplands, pastureland, or wooded areas would be modified or affected as a result of implementing the Proposed Action or Alternative and, consequently, productivity of the area would not be degraded.

4.18 IRREVERSIVLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES

Under the proposed action, fuels, manpower, economic resources, fill and other construction materials related to the construction of the addition to the multi-use trail system would be irreversibly lost. The minor loss of vegetation from clearing land for new construction would be an irretrievable commitment of resources.

5.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

Heidi Durako
Natural and Cultural Resources
319 CES/CEVA
525 Tuskegee Airmen Blvd
Grand Forks AFB ND 58205

6.0 LIST OF AGENCIES AND PERSONS CONSULTED AND/OR PROVIDED COPIES

| | |
|---|---|
| Steve Braun USTs and Special Programs 319 CES/CEVC 525 Tuskegee Airmen Blvd Grand Forks AFB ND 58205 | Gary Johnson Ground Safety Manager 319 ARW/SEG 679 4 th Ave Grand Forks AFB ND 58205 |
| Capt Stephanie Brown Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight Commander 319AMDS/SGPB 1599 J St Grand Forks AFB ND 58205 | Chris Klaus Water Programs Manager 319 CES/CEVC 525 Tuskegee Airmen Blvd Grand Forks AFB ND 58205 |
| Lt Col Sean Carey Chief of Safety 319 ARW/SE 779 Eielson St Grand Forks AFB ND 58205 | Lt Col Patrick McCormack Operations Officer 911 ARS/DO 817 Eielson St Grand Forks AFB ND 58205 |
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| Everett "Gene" Crouse Chief, Airfield Management 319 OSS OSAA 695 Steen Blvd Grand Forks AFB ND 58205 | Heidi Nelson Community Planner 319 CES/CECP 525 Tuskegee Airmen Blvd Grand Forks AFB ND 58205 |
| Heidi Durako Natural and Cultural Resources 319 CES/CEVA 525 Tuskegee Airmen Blvd Grand Forks AFB ND 58205 | Larry Olderbak Environmental Restoration Manager 319 CES/CEVR 525 Tuskegee Airmen Blvd Grand Forks AFB ND 58205 |
| Mark Hanson Contract Attorney 319 ARW/JA 460 Steen Blvd Grand Forks AFB ND 58205 | Gary Raknerud Chief, Pollution Prevention 319 CES/CEVP 525 Tuskegee Airmen Blvd Grand Forks AFB ND 58205 |

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APPENDIX A
LOCATION MAP



APPENDIX B
CULTURAL RESOURCE PROBABILITY MAP

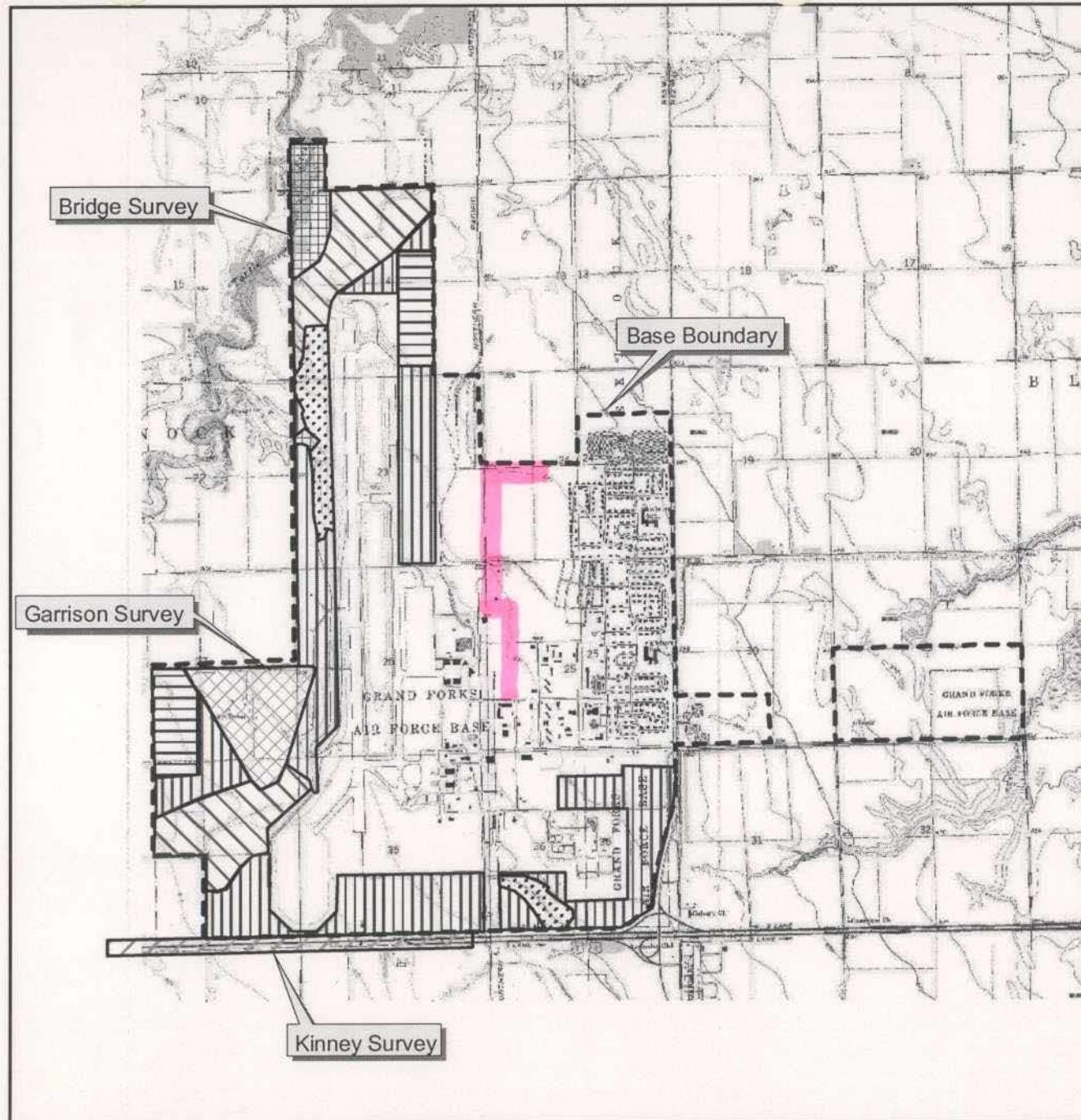


Figure 3.5
 Survey Areas and
 Probabilities

Grand Forks Air Force Base
 Cultural Resources Management Plan

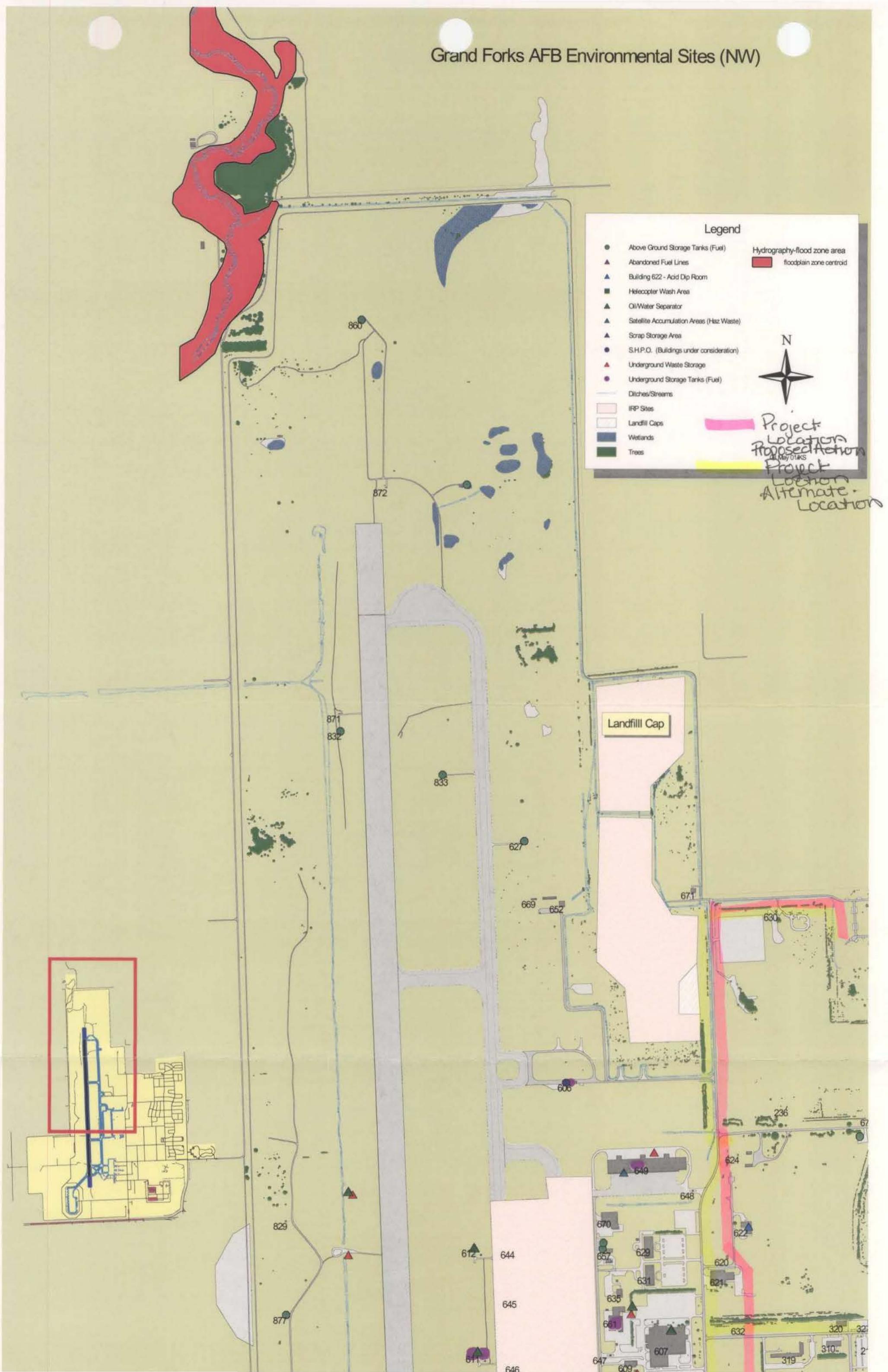
Legend

- Historic Bridge Inventory Survey
- Base Boundary
- High Probability
- Medium Probability (near water)
- Kinney Survey
- Medium Probability (beach ridge)
- Peace Keeper Rail Garrison Survey
- Low Probability (distance from water)
- Low Probability (10% sample)
- Previously Disturbed



APPENDIX C
ENVIRONMENTAL SITE MAP

Grand Forks AFB Environmental Sites (NW)



APPENDIX D
AF FORM 813

REQUEST FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

Report Control Symbol

RCS: 03-063

INSTRUCTIONS: Section I to be completed by Proponent; Sections II and III to be completed by Environmental Planning Function. Continue on separate sheets as necessary. Reference appropriate item number(s).

SECTION I - PROONENT INFORMATION

| | | |
|---|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. TO (Environmental Planning Function) 319 CES/CEVA | 2. FROM (Proponent organization and functional address symbol) 319 CES/CEOE | 2a. TELEPHONE NO. 7-6378 |
|---|--|-----------------------------|

3. TITLE OF PROPOSED ACTION

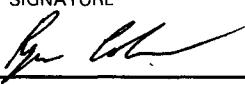
Construct Addition to Multi-Use Trail System

4. PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION (Identify decision to be made and need date)

See Attached.

5. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES (DOPAA) (Provide sufficient details for evaluation of the total action.)

See attached map for locations.

| | | |
|---|--|-------------------------|
| 6. PROONENT APPROVAL (Name and Grade) Lt Ryan Cole | 6a. SIGNATURE  | 6b. DATE 30 Jun 2003 |
|---|--|-------------------------|

| | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|
| SECTION II - PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEY. (Check appropriate box and describe potential environmental effects including cumulative effects.) (+ = positive effect; 0 = no effect; - = adverse effect; U = unknown effect) | | + | 0 | - | U |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|

| | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|---|--|
| 7. AIR INSTALLATION COMPATIBLE USE ZONE/LAND USE (Noise, accident potential, encroachment, etc.) | | X | | | |
| 8. AIR QUALITY (Emissions, attainment status, state implementation plan, etc.) | | | | X | |
| 9. WATER RESOURCES (Quality, quantity, source, etc.) | | | | X | |

| | | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|
| . SAFETY AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH (Asbestos/radiation/chemical exposure, explosives safety quantity-distance, bird/wildlife aircraft hazard, etc.) | | X | | | |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|

| | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|
| 11. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS/WASTE (Use/storage/generation, solid waste, etc.) | | | | X | |
| 12. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (Wetlands/floodplains, threatened or endangered species, etc.) | | | X | | |
| 13. CULTURAL RESOURCES (Native American burial sites, archaeological, historical, etc.) | | | | X | |
| 14. GEOLOGY AND SOILS (Topography, minerals, geothermal, Installation Restoration Program, seismicity, etc.) | | | | | X |
| 15. SOCIOECONOMIC (Employment/population projections, school and local fiscal impacts, etc.) | | X | | | |
| 16. OTHER (Potential impacts not addressed above.) | | | | X | |

SECTION III - ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS DETERMINATION

| |
|---|
| 17. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PROPOSED ACTION QUALIFIES FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CATEX) # _____ ; OR PROPOSED ACTION DOES NOT QUALIFY FOR A CATEX; FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS IS REQUIRED. |
|---|

18. REMARKS

This action is not "regionally significant" and does not require a conformity determination in accordance with 40 CFR 93.153(1). The total emission of criteria pollutants from the proposed action are below the de minimus thresholds and less than 10 percent of the Air Quality Region's planning inventory.

| | | |
|---|--|------------------------|
| 19. ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING FUNCTION CERTIFICATION (Name and Grade) WAYNE A. KOOP, R.E.M., GM-13 Environmental Management Flight Chief | 19a. SIGNATURE  | 19b. DATE 30 Jun 03 |
|---|--|------------------------|

Block 4: Purpose and Need For Action

4.1 Purpose: Grand Forks AFB proposes to construct an addition to the multi-use trail system.

4.2 Need For Action: Grand Forks is located fifteen miles from the City of Grand Forks. There are few recreation activities available to the base populace. All age groups for walking, running, bike riding, roller-blading, cross-country skiing, and horseback riding would utilize the path. The path would minimize the safety concerns of these activities on base streets.

Block 5: Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives

5.1 Proposed Action: Grand Forks AFB proposes to construct a multi-use trail system running west along Malmstrom Ave., south along Eielson St., curving to the east of Outdoor Recreation, and dividing to connect to existing trails by 7th Ave. and Tuskegee Airmen Blvd. Between 7th and Tuskegee Airmen Blvd., the trail would skirt along the west side of the shelterbelt. Protruding tree branches would be trimmed as needed.

The trail would be about 10,200 feet long and a maximum of 10 feet wide. Twelve inches of topsoil may be removed during construction. Materials would include fabric, gravel, clay (as necessary) and asphalt. Some curb cutting would occur at road crossings. Sand bags and silt fences would be used to protect the storm water drainage system from soil pollution.

A culvert with two 6-inch corrugated metal pipes may be installed at the corner of Malmstrom Ave. and the dirt road to the trailer park. The culvert would be located on the west side of the dirt road where the trail crosses over from the east side, shortly before reaching Malmstrom Ave. About ten bushes would be removed at the corner of Eielson St. and Malmstrom Ave. to allow room for the trail to cut the corner while keeping its distance from the drainage ditch. The horse pasture fence would be placed a few feet east of where the utility poles are now located. As the trail crosses the ditch north of Redwood St., no culvert will be needed because drainage does not occur through that point. As the trail approaches 7th Ave. from the north, minimal trees and shrubs in the shelter belt would be removed in order to allow the trail to pass through a 12 foot wide opening.

The wetland located south of the recreational vehicle storage lot would be restored to pre-existing conditions (as it was prior to disturbance in fall FY02). Grade would be restored and bridge placed over the wetland to connect the two sides of the multi-purpose path. No fill would be placed in the wetland other to restore pre-existing conditions.

5.2 Alternative Two: Construct multi-use trail system in alternative location.

5.3 No Action Alternative: This alternative would leave the area as is and not perform any additional work on the multi-use trail system. Wetland would not be restored to pre-existing conditions.

**APPENDIX E
AF FORM 1391**

AF Form 813, Construct Addition to Multi-Use Trail System, Continuation Sheet

7. AICUZ/LAND USE - Proposed action is consistent with current land use. The operation of heavy equipment would generate additional noise.

8. AIR QUALITY - No long term effects; however short-term effects involve heavy construction equipment emissions (not a concern as they are mobile sources) and fugitive dust (mentioned on our Title V permit). Fugitive emissions from construction activities are expected to be below the regulatory threshold and would be managed in accordance with NDAC 33-15-17-03. Fugitive dust mitigation required as per NDDH rulings and GFAFB Title V Air Operating Permit. Air Quality is considered good and the area is in attainment for all criteria pollutants. Best management practices to reduce fugitive emissions would be implemented to reduce the amount of these emissions. No long-term negative impact.

9. WATER RESOURCES

Alternative 1 (Proposed Action)

Groundwater: Excavation would most probably not intercept the water table. If the excavated area fills with surface water, which is contaminated by materials used during construction, groundwater could be exposed to contaminants by infiltration. Provided best management practices are followed, there would be minimal impacts to ground water.

Surface Water: Surface water quality could degrade in the short-term, during actual construction, due to possible erosion contributing to turbidity of runoff and due to possible contamination from spills, leaks from construction equipment. Surface water could be impacted if, due to storm water inflow to the excavation, the operators would need to pump out the excavation. The operator shall utilize effective methods to control surface water runoff and to minimize erosion. Proper stabilization and seeding the site immediately upon completion of the construction would provide beneficial vegetation to control erosion. Provided best management practices are utilized during construction, negative surface water impacts should be minimal.

Water Quality: Provided all containment needs are met and best management practices are used, the proposed action would have minimal impact to water quality.

Wastewater: The proposed action would have no impact on wastewater.

Wetlands: The proposed action will have a direct impact on an isolated wetland area. This area was negatively impact during previous work on part of this project and will now have to be restored to its previous state. Soil at the intersection of the wetland and ditch will have to be restored to its pre disturbance conditions. The net effect will be to restore the wetland to its original size and shape.

Alternative 2 - Impacts would be similar to those generated under the proposed action.

Alternative 3 (No Action) - This action would have a net negative impact on Wetlands. With no restoration portion of the project, the damage done previously would remain uncorrected.

10. SAFETY AND OCCUPATION HEALTH – Improved safety for base residents utilizing the trail instead of base streets.

| 1. COMPONENT AIR FORCE | FY 2002 MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT DATA (computer generated) | | | 2. DATE |
|--|--|---|--|---------|
| 3. INSTALLATION AND LOCATION GRAND FORKS AIR FORCE BASE, NORTH DAKOTA | | 4. PROJECT TITLE CONS MULTI-USE TRAIL-PH 4 (R/M) | | |
| 5. PROGRAM ELEMENT 41976 | 6. CATEGORY CODE 852-289 | 7. PROJECT NUMBER JFS200044P4 | 8. PROJECT COST (\$000) EEIC 529 1 | |
| 9. COST ESTIMATES | | | | |
| ITEM | U/M | QUANTITY | UNIT | COST |
| SIDEWALK | SM | 1 | 1,000 | 1.0 |
| SUPPORTING FACILITIES | | | | 0.0 |
| SUBTOTAL | | | | 1.0 |
| PROFIT AND OVERHEAD (0 %) | | | | 0.0 |
| TOTAL FUNDED COST | | | | 1.0 |
| UNFUNDED COST (0 %) | | | | 0.0 |
| TOTAL REQUEST | | | | 1.0 |
| 10. Description of Proposed Construction: Pave a section of the mulit use trail on the north side of the Base along east side of Eielson, and to the west. | | | | |
| 11. Requirement: As required. <u>PROJECT:</u> Pave a section of the mulit use trail on the north side of the Base along east side of Eielson, and to the west. <u>REQUIREMENT:</u> Pave a section of the mulit use trail on the north side of the Base along east side of Eielson, and to the west. <u>IMPACT IF NOT PROVIDED:</u> The trail exists now as a gravel trail and requires asphalt to make it common with the rest of the trail system on base. | | | | |

11. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS/WASTE - There would be a short-term, minimal increase in solid wastes from construction related activities. Trash and construction debris would be disposed of off base, in an approved disposal area such as the Grand Forks City Landfill.
12. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES – Project would be beneficial, as it would repair damage created to the wetland. There would be some reduction in vegetation from the paving of the trail.
13. CULTURAL RESOURCES - No effect. If any cultural sites were found during construction, work would halt and 319 CES/CEVA would be notified.
14. GEOLOGY AND SOILS - No effect; project area was previously disturbed and does not impact Installation Restoration Program sites.
15. SOCIOECONOMIC - This action would have a minor positive effect on the local economy. A portion of the project would be accomplished under contract. Secondary retail purchases would make an additional contribution to the local communities. The implementation of the proposed action, therefore, would provide a short-term, beneficial impact to local contractors and retailers during the construction phase of the project.
16. OTHER – No known impacts.



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

HEADQUARTERS 319TH AIR REFUELING WING (AMC)
GRAND FORKS AIR FORCE BASE, NORTH DAKOTA

16 July 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR 319 CES/CEVA

FROM: 319 ARW/JA

SUBJECT: Legal Review – Construct Additions to Multi-Use Trail System (EA/FONSI)

1. Based upon my review the proposed Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) complies with 32 CFR part 989 and is legally sufficient.
2. 32 CFR §. 989.14 states an EA must discuss the need for the proposed action, reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, the affected environment, the environmental impacts of the proposed action and alternatives (including the "no action" alternative), and a listing of agencies and persons consulted during preparation. The EA meets these requirements and follows the alternatives analysis guidance outlined in Sec. 989.8.
3. 32 CFR §. 989.14(g) states when the action selected is located in wetlands or floodplains, it must discuss why no other practicable alternative exists to avoid impacts. See AFI 32-7064, *Integrated Natural Resources Management*. The proposed alternative corrects action having an adverse impact on wetlands. In addition, it is my understanding that the Corps of Engineers has been consulted on the wetlands and they have not desired to provided input based upon their characterization of the land.
4. If you have any questions about these comments, please contact the undersigned at 7-3606.

MARK W. HANSON, GS-12, DAF
Attorney/Advisor

I concur.

ERIK A. TROFF, MAH, USAF
Deputy Staff Judge Advocate

RCS# 03-043
Trail

Checklist

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| Coordination | <u>Email 6/12/03</u> | Date Received |
| | ADS/SGGB (Bio) | <u>Not Read</u> |
| | ARW/JA (Legal) | <u>6/11/03</u> |
| | ARW/SE (Safety) | <u>Not Read</u> |
| | CES/CECP (Community Planner) | <u>Read</u> |
| | CES/CEV (Env) | <u>6/30/03</u> |
| | CES/CEVA (Natural/Cultural) | <u>6/12/03</u> |
| | CES/CEVC (Air Mgr) | <u>6/3/03</u> |
| | CES/CEVC (Asbestos/LBP/tanks) | <u>Read</u> |
| | CES/CEVC (Water Mgr) | <u>6/19/03</u> |
| | CES/CEVP (Haz Mat/Waste) | <u>6/24/03</u> |
| | CES/CEVR (IRP) | <u>Read</u> |
| | OSS/OSA (Airfield Operations) | <u>6/12/03</u> |
| Public Notice | | Expiration: <u>7/15/03</u> |
| | <u>Email 6/25/03</u> | <u>6/30/03</u> |
| Coordination w/Public Affairs | | |
| Route | Base Leader GF Herald <u>15 days</u> | <u>7/1/03</u> |
| | Legal <u>7/14/03</u> | <u>7/16/03</u> |
| | CEV <u>7/15/03</u> | |
| | ARW/CV <u>NA</u> | |

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA } SS.
COUNTY OF GRAND FORKS }

of said State and County being

first duly sworn, on oath says:

That { she } is { a representative of the GRAND FORKS HERALD, INC.,

publisher of the Grand Forks Herald, Morning Edition, a daily newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in the City of Grand Forks, in said County and State, and has been during the time hereinafter mentioned, and that the advertisement of

addn to the Multi Use Trail System
a printed copy of which is hereto annexed, was printed and published in every copy of the following issues of said newspaper, for a period of time (s) to wit:

| | | |
|------------|---------------|-----------|
| <u>7-1</u> | Yr. <u>03</u> | Yr. _____ |
| <u>7-8</u> | Yr. <u>03</u> | Yr. _____ |
| _____ | Yr. _____ | Yr. _____ |
| _____ | Yr. _____ | Yr. _____ |

and that the full amount of the fee for the publication of the annexed notice inures solely to the benefit of the publishers of said newspaper; that no agreement or understanding for a division thereof has been made with any other person and that no part thereof has been agreed to be paid to any person whomsoever and the amount of said fee is \$ 16.56;

That said newspaper was, at the time of the aforesaid publication, the duly elected and qualified Official Newspaper within said County, and qualified in accordance with the law of the State of North Dakota to do legal printing in said County and State.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this

July A.D. 03

15 day of

Elaine Fawcett

Notary Public, Grand Forks, ND

AIR FORCE BASE PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

Grand Forks Air Force Base has proposed the construction of an addition to the Multi-Use Trail System

An environmental assessment has been conducted and a "finding of no significant impact" has been determined for the action."

Anyone who would like to view the support documents to this action should contact the 319th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs Office within the next 15 days at 747-5017.
(July 1 & 8, 2003)Publication Fee \$ 16.56

| |
|-------------------------------------|
| ELAINE FAWCETT |
| NO. |
| STATE C. <u>ND</u> |
| My Commission expires, Feb. 7, 2007 |

Community Services

Economic
Development & Finance

Tourism

July 17, 2003

Workforce Development



Wayne A. Koop, R.E.M.
Dept. of The Air Force
319 CES/CEV
525 Tuskegee Airmen Blvd.
Grand Forks AFB, ND 58205-6434

"Letter of Clearance" In Conformance with the North Dakota Federal Program Review System - State Application Identifier No.: ND030717-0369

Dear Mr. Koop:

SUBJECT: FONSI - Construct Addition to Multi-use Trail System

The above referenced FONSI has been reviewed through the North Dakota Federal Program Review Process. As a result of the review, clearance is given to the project only with respect to this consultation process.

If the proposed project changes in duration, scope, description, budget, location or area of impact, from the project description submitted for review, then it is necessary to submit a copy of the completed application to this office for further review.

We also request the opportunity for complete review of applications for renewal or continuation grants or applications not submitted to or acted on by the funding agency within one year after the date of this letter.

Please use the above SAI number for reference to the above project with this office. Your continued cooperation in the review process is much appreciated.

Sincerely,

James R. Boyd
Manager of Governmental Services

sf

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